

ing else. Paul says so as specifically as he can and all we have to do is to believe it, whether we understand it or not. The Lord says "whosoever believeth shall be saved," not whosoever understandeth. If our salvation depended on our understanding everything we would all be damned.

I will now ask the querist several questions and I would like to have him answer thro the *Messenger* if they will publish them. Some time ago the question was asked thro the *Messenger* whether the church had power to make laws. Editor Moore answered that she had not, but she had the right to interpret the scriptures. I submitted to him thro the EVANGELIST several questions bearing on his answer, but he has not responded for reasons known to himself. I ask you to answer a few bearing on your methods of interpreting the scriptures.

1. What scripture, by interpretation, authorizes the cut away coat with the military collar as a condition of baptism and official service?

2. What scripture, by interpretation, authorizes one of three specific modes of hairdressing for men as a condition of baptism and official service?

3. What scripture, by interpretation, makes a bonnet and white cap conditions of salvation for women?

4. What scripture, by interpretation, justifies different conditions of salvation in different states?

5. What scripture, by interpretation, makes valid baptism contingent on the faith of the administrator?

6. Are the interpretations so called of your A. M. infallible, like those of Rome?

7. Why does your church invariably fight a reform and expel a lot of its advocates before they adopt it and then refuse to restore those whom they expel?

I wish our friend would explain why editor Moore refused to answer my questions. The truth does not lose by investigation, neither does it stretch nor dodge. Error hides. He is set for the defense of the gospel and he is bound to defend it when challenged if he is loyal to the Lord. He has been accused of deceiving his people, in denying that his church makes laws, and his refusal to answer impresses honest inquirers with the idea that he is conscious of the deception. He must give an account of these things at the last day and he may have some questions asked then that will bring very sad answers. Now is the time to settle such controversies.

A church is not likely to find scriptural sermons unappetizing so long as its faith in the Bible is warm; only when that faith begins to cool does the church begin to grow finical in its requirements. It has no longer a healthy spiritual appetite, but requires that its scriptural palate shall be piqued with all sorts of spices of artificial pulpit condiments.

### THE TIE THAT BINDS

ADA CORDWELL

"Blest be the tie that binds," and that tie is love. Even the plainest home where love dwells has a romance of its own. In life's battles one finds many enemies and much abuse; but into the homes where love is the tie that binds such things never find their way.

One writer says, "No cord or cable can draw so forcibly or bind so fast as love can do with only a single thread." Christ said "I know my sheep and am known of mine." It is this tie or feeling of personal relationship between God and the individual that makes our religion what it is. People do not hunger for formal theological systems. The food that nourishes the lonely heart is love, and love is a thing of relationship. As we see Jesus feeding the crowd, healing the sick, mingling with the people in their festivities, speaking kindly to the penitent, taking the children in his arms, teaching forbearance, showing gentleness to the erring, meekly enduring unjust accusation, and praying even for his murderers, we draw near to him and feel that in him we have a lovable friend, one who deserves all our love. As centuries pass, the number of those who love him increases; with every generation He draws us with the cords of love, and thus he binds us to him; but, as Beecher says, "Love without faith is as bad as faith without love." They go together. Faith is a living and vigorous principle working by love and inseparably connected with true repentance. It is wonderful what faith and hope and love will accomplish in the way of lifting out of darkness into light, out of sadness into joy. If we love Jesus all service will be for Him and the lowliest and most ordinary will be as sweet as the highest. Say of any work it is the work He has given me to do. The service of the lips alone without the services of the heart and life can never satisfy God. We see the desire for fellowship in the young and innocent, the middle aged and the old and in all classes of society. None are so criminal that they do not seek fellowship with others. It is the last thing that dies out in humanity.

Those who are engaged in the same work are naturally bound together. But this great band of Christian workers are drawn very close to each other. Perhaps the happiest, gladdest moments of our lives are when we can grasp the hand and feel the close contact of those in sympathy with and engaged in the same work. We induce others to join our ranks. When Christians go to a new place they at once ask for the house of God and enter therein; sing the same songs, join in the same prayer, and listen to the same old story ever new.

"How high, how strong their rapture swells. There's none but kindred souls can tell." The inborn aspiration and prompting of humanity is for something better, something beyond. This soul awakening unrest has forced the march of civilization through all of the ages and is today urging forward every one to the goal of higher and better things. In much that we do, we must wait for our reward; but it is a comfort to realize that the strength of others makes ourselves strong, that the fraternal soul of others imparts its hue to our own; that the pleasure garments of others may be woven in the loom of our own feelings. The truest way of getting light ourselves is by trying to give light to others. We need to think there is a love for us that "beareth all things, endureth all things," and as we come more and more to realize His love, it will be easier for us to bear with others and hope for others. When doubts come, we turn lovingly to Christ. He is able to protect us.

It is His will that we rise to better things and that our course shall grow brighter unto the perfect day. We gladly yield to that will and trust him for its accomplishments. So from the beginning to the end of the Christian life we trust him for all we need and hope. Every time we believe in the love God hath toward us and all mankind we are taking a draught of the life immortal.

I've found a friend, oh such a friend,  
He loved me ere I knew Him,  
He drew me with the cords of love  
And thus He bound me to Him.  
And round my heart still closely twine  
Those ties which naught can sever,  
For I am His and He is mine,  
For ever and forever.

Lathrop, Cal.

### HONORARY TITLES

C. H. WETHERBE

One plain evidence of the weakness and shallowness of human nature, as seen in some ministers, is a great fondness for wearing honorary titles. It is amazing that so many, professing to be faithful followers of the meek Saviour of men, and at the same time preachers of a humbling gospel, will set their hearts upon receiving honorary titles and will proudly wear them. The editor of a certain religious paper was written to recently by a minister, asking the editor to not attach the title D. D. to his name any more, in connection with his printed articles, as the degree did not belong to him. The editor replied that he had supposed that the minister was a doctor of divinity, and hence he signified it in the manner referred to, he also stated that there were brethren, doctors of divinity, who were particular to have that fact recognized. I wonder